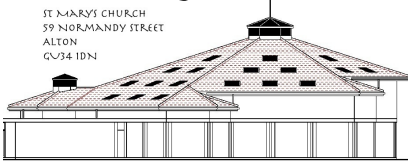


# St Mary's Parish Newsletter



ST MARY'S CHURCH  
59 NORMANDY STREET  
ALTON  
GU34 1DN

59, Normandy Street  
Alton, Hants  
GU34 1DN  
Tel: 01420 82030  
Fax: 01420 85821

Website: [www.stmarysalton.co.uk](http://www.stmarysalton.co.uk)

Email: [stmarysalton@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:stmarysalton@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk)

Parish Priest: Rev Peter Hart

Parish Deacon: Rev. Stephen Joseph

Safeguarding Rep. Mrs. Anne Bothwell

Contact No: 01420 82030

## TIMES OF MASSES & INTENTIONS

Sunday 12th July, 2026

### FIFTEENTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR

(Year A) Psalter Week 3

|                                                    |                                |                                               |
|----------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|
| <b>Saturday</b>                                    | <b>St. Benedict</b>            |                                               |
|                                                    | <b>5.30pm</b>                  | Kitty & John King, RIP                        |
| <b>Sunday</b>                                      | <b>15th Sunday of The Year</b> |                                               |
| <b>Medstead</b>                                    | <b>9.00am</b>                  | The People of The Parish                      |
| <b>St Mary's</b>                                   | <b>11.00am</b>                 | Francis Maslin, RIP                           |
| <b>Monday</b>                                      | <b>Feria.</b>                  |                                               |
|                                                    | 9.30am                         | Special Intention (RG)                        |
|                                                    | 12.00pm                        | Requiem for Maria Proli, RIP                  |
| <b>Tuesday</b>                                     | <b>Feria NO MASS</b>           |                                               |
| <b>Wednesday</b>                                   | <b>St Swithun</b>              |                                               |
|                                                    | 9.00am                         | Rosary                                        |
|                                                    | 9.30am                         | In thanksgiving for 64 years of Marriage (PB) |
| <b>Thursday</b>                                    | <b>Feria</b>                   |                                               |
|                                                    | 9.30am                         | Special Intention                             |
| <b>Friday</b>                                      | <b>St Bonaventure</b>          |                                               |
|                                                    | 9.30am                         | Eileen McDermott, RIP                         |
| <b>Saturday</b>                                    | <b>Feria</b>                   |                                               |
|                                                    | <b>5.30pm</b>                  | Bernice & Richie Aherne, RIP (MC)             |
| <b>Sunday</b>                                      | <b>16th Sunday of The Year</b> |                                               |
| <b>Medstead</b>                                    | <b>9.00am</b>                  | The People of The Parish                      |
| <b>St Mary's</b>                                   | <b>11.00am</b>                 | Andrew Hart, RIP (F)                          |
| <i>Confessions Saturday 4.45pm, and by request</i> |                                |                                               |

## 15th Sunday of The Year

### Entrance Antiphon

As for me, in justice I shall behold your face;  
I shall be filled with the vision of your glory.

### Responsorial Psalm

Some seed fell into good soil and yielded its fruit.

### Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia ! The seed is the word of God, Christ the sower; all who find him will live forever. Alleluia.

### Communion Antiphon:

The sparrow finds a home, and the swallow a nest for her young: by your altars, O Lord of hosts, my King and my God. Blessed are they who dwell in your house, for ever singing your praise.

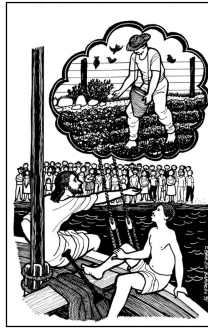
## The Special Collection this week-end 11th & 12th July is for The Apostleship of the Sea (Stella Maria)



STELLA MARIS

The Catholic Church's maritime charity helps Seafarers who lead hard and dangerous lives. This Sea Sunday your gifts and prayers will help seafarers and fishers get the support they need. Stella Maris chaplains and volunteers are working in ports up and down this country, and across the world: but they cannot do it without your support. Please be generous.

There are Special envelopes to send off with your donation if you wish to Gift Aid it. or you may donate online at <https://stellamaris.org.uk/donate/>



## 15th Sunday of The Year

12th July, 2026

The Gospel today is the beginning of a new section in Matthew, called 'The Parabolic Discourse' - a section of parables Jesus tells the crowd, which we will read over the next three weeks. A parable is a story with a hidden meaning: we can easily remember the story, and gradually the true meaning becomes clearer and clearer. Today is a famous example: the Parable of the Sower. In

itself it is a story that would easily be understood by Jesus's audience - people who lived in an agricultural economy. Jesus uses their understanding to make an important teaching about the message he has brought: it is like a seed that is thrown out and received in different ways - the ideal is when the seed finds good soil, and produces a crop that can be seen and harvested: so the ideal listener to the word is one who allows it to lodge in the heart, but also produces a visible result. What is the harvest we should yield, when we have heard the word ?

**'A sower went out to sow.'**

### A POPE'S REFLECTION - Pope Benedict

*In this Sunday's Gospel, Jesus recounts to the crowd the well-known Parable of the Sower. In a certain way it is an "autobiographical" passage, for it reflects the very experience of Jesus, of his preaching. He identifies himself with the sower who scatters the good seed of the Word of God and notes the different effects it obtains, in accordance with the way in which people hear the proclamation. Some listen superficially to the Word but do not take it in; others accept it at the time but are unable to persevere and lose it all; there are those who are engrossed by worldly concerns and enticements; and those who listen receptively, like the good soil: here the word bears an abundance of fruit. However this Gospel also puts the accent on Jesus' preaching "method", that is, on his use of parables. "Why do you speak to them in parables?", his disciples ask. And Jesus answers distinguishing between them and the crowd: to his disciples — namely to those who have already decided for him — he can speak openly about the Kingdom of God, to others, instead, he must proclaim it in parables, precisely to encourage their decision, conversion of the heart; indeed, by their very nature parables demand the effort of interpretation, they not only challenge the mind but also freedom. St John Chrysostom explained: "And this he [Jesus] says to draw them unto him, and to provoke them and to signify that if they would covert he would heal them". Basically, God's true "Parable" is Jesus himself, his Person who, in the sign of humanity, hides and at the same time reveals his divinity. In this manner God does not force us to believe in him but attracts us to him with the truth and goodness of his incarnate Son: love, in fact, always respects freedom. Dear friends, on Saturday we celebrated the Feast of St Benedict, Abbot and Patron of Europe. In the light of this Gospel reading let us look to him as to a master of listening to the Word of God, a profound and persevering listening. We must always learn from the great Patriarch of Western monasticism to give God his proper place, the first place, offering him in morning and evening prayer our daily work. May the Virgin Mary help us, through her example, to be "good soil" where the seed of the Word may bear fruit in abundance.*

The funeral service for Maria Proli will be at 12.00pm on Monday 13th July in St Mary's, followed by cremation at Aldershot Crematorium.

*Eternal Rest Grant unto her, O Lord,  
Let Perpetual Light Shine Upon her  
May she rest in peace. Amen*

**Requiescat in Pace**

**SACRED HEART OF JESUS,  
LOOK ON US WITH MERCY AND LOVE**

# Saints of the Week

## July 14th, St. Kateri Tekakwitha

The blood of martyrs is the seed of saints. Nine years after the Jesuits Isaac Jogues and Jean de Lelande were tomahawked by Iroquois warriors, a baby girl was born near the place of their martyrdom, Auriesville, New York state. Kateri Tekakwitha’s mother was a Christian Algonquin, taken captive by the Iroquois and given as wife to the chief of the Mohawk clan, the boldest and fiercest of the Five Nations. When she was four, Tekakwitha lost her parents and little brother in a smallpox epidemic that left her disfigured and half blind. She was adopted by an uncle, who succeeded her father as chief. He hated the coming of the Blackrobes—Jesuit missionaries—but could do nothing to them because a peace treaty with the French required their presence in villages with Christian captives. She was very moved by the words of three Jesuits who lodged with her uncle, but fear of him kept her from seeking instruction. Tekakwitha refused to marry a Mohawk brave, and at 19 finally got the courage to take the step of converting. She was baptized with the name Kateri—Catherine—on Easter Sunday. Now she would be treated as a slave. Because she would not work on Sunday, Kateri received no food that day. Her life in grace grew rapidly. She told a missionary that she often meditated on the great dignity of being baptized. She was powerfully moved by God’s love for human beings and saw the dignity of each of her people. She was always in danger, for her conversion and holy life created great opposition. On the advice of a priest, Kateri stole away one night and began a 200-mile walking journey to a Christian Indian village at Sault St. Louis, near Montreal. For three years she grew in holiness under the direction of a priest and an older Iroquois woman, giving herself totally to God in long hours of prayer, in charity, and in strenuous works of penance. At 23, Kateri took a vow of virginity, which was an unprecedented act for an Indian woman whose future depended on being married. She found a place in the woods where she could pray an hour a day—and was accused of meeting a man there! Her dedication to virginity was instinctive: Kateri did not know about religious life for women until she visited Montreal. Inspired by this, she and two friends wanted to start a community, but the local priest dissuaded her. She humbly accepted an “ordinary” life. She practiced extremely severe fasting as penance for the conversion of her nation. Kateri died on the afternoon before Holy Thursday. Witnesses said that her emaciated face changed colour and became like that of a healthy child. The lines of suffering, even the pockmarks, disappeared and the touch of a smile came upon her lips. She was beatified in 1980 and canonized in 2012.

**Reflection:** We like to think that our proposed holiness is thwarted by our situation. If only we could have more solitude, less opposition, better health. Kateri Tekakwitha repeats the example of the saints: Holiness thrives on the cross, anywhere. Yet she did have what Christians, all people, need: the support of a community. She had a good mother, helpful priests, and Christian friends. These were present in what we call primitive conditions, and blossomed in the age-old Christian triad of prayer, fasting and almsgiving: union with God in Jesus and the Spirit, self-discipline and often suffering, and charity for her brothers and sisters.

## July 18th, St. Camillus de Lellis

Humanly speaking, Camillus was not a likely candidate for sainthood. His mother died when he was a child, his father neglected him, and he grew up with an excessive love for gambling. At 17, he was afflicted with a disease of his leg that remained with him for life. In Rome he entered the San Giacomo Hospital for Incurables as both patient and servant, but was dismissed for quarrelsomeness after nine months. He served in the Venetian army for three years. Then, in the winter of 1574, when he was 24, Camillus de Lellis gambled away everything he had—savings, weapons, literally down to his shirt. He accepted work at the Capuchin friary at Manfredonia, and was one day so moved by a sermon of the



superior that he began a conversion that changed his life. He entered the Capuchin novitiate, but was dismissed because of the apparently incurable sore on his leg. After another stint of service at San Giacomo, he came back to the Capuchins, only to be dismissed again, for the same reason. Again, back at San Giacomo, his dedication was rewarded by his being made superintendent. Camillus devoted the rest of his life to the care of the sick. Along with St John of God he has been named patron of hospitals, nurses, and the sick. With the advice of his friend St Philip Neri, he studied for the priesthood and was ordained at the age of 34. Contrary to the advice of his friend, Camillus left San Giacomo and founded a congregation of his own. As superior, he devoted much of his own time to the care of the sick. Charity was his first concern, but the physical aspects of the hospital also received his diligent attention. Camillus insisted on cleanliness and the technical competence of those who served the sick. The members of his community bound themselves to serve prisoners and persons infected by the plague as well as those dying in private homes. Some of his men were with troops fighting in Hungary and Croatia in 1595, forming the first recorded military field ambulance. In Naples, he and his men went onto the galleys that had plague and were not allowed to land. He discovered that there were people being buried alive, and ordered his brothers to continue the prayers for the dying 15 minutes after apparent death. Camillus himself suffered the disease of his leg through his life. In his last illness, he left his own bed to see if other patients in the hospital needed help.

**Reflection:** Saints are created by God. Parents must indeed nurture the faith in their children; husbands and wives must cooperate to deepen their baptismal grace; friends must support each other. But all human effort is only the dispensing of divine power. We must all try as if everything depended on us. But only the power of God can fulfill the plan of God—to make us like himself.

## ADVANCED WARNING - CAR PARK

The Diocese is taking control of all Church properties used for car parks, to standardise contracts and income. Number Plate recognition will be installed and so anyone entering the car park will be liable for the set fees unless they are provided with an exemption to allow free parking. A tablet will be situated in the Church porch. Simply input your registration number before entering the Church or the Church Hall to be exempt from any parking charges on the Sunday or weekdays. If you park at any other time, **you pay the fee before leaving**. The fee due is calculated from the time of entry to the time of departure. Daily, weekly and monthly permits that currently are booked on the Parish website will need to be booked on the dedicated Parish Horizon portal in the same way. **There will be no need to display a parking ticket or permit.**

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |                                                                                       |          |       |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|-------|
| A | E | S | D | R | I | B | R | F | S | LAKESIDE                                                                              | CROWDS   | SOWER |
| E | S | D | E | E | S | O | E | E | E | SEEDS                                                                                 | BIRDS    | SOIL  |
| A | R | C | K | E | O | L | W | L | E | EARTH                                                                                 | SCORCHED | ROOTS |
| S | A | S | O | S | L | I | O | A | S | WITHERED                                                                              | THORNS   | CROP  |
| R | E | D | H | R | T | I | S | K | E |  |          |       |
| P | S | W | C | H | C | H | O | E | D |                                                                                       |          |       |
| R | O | O | E | S | T | H | K | S | S |                                                                                       |          |       |
| S | N | R | O | H | T | R | E | I | I |                                                                                       |          |       |
| E | E | C | C | T | R | E | A | D | B |                                                                                       |          |       |
| D | S | T | O | O | R | T | A | E | R |                                                                                       |          |       |

## Please remember in your prayers

Baby Polly Phillips, Matthew & Duncan Graham,  
John D., Mary McGinty, Regina Elliot,  
Francesca Adams, Mary McGrath,  
Annie Tomlinson, Rita Rawling, Kate Cradock,  
Alex Smith, Jonathan & Lindy Wiltshire,  
Simon Wilder, Mary Sturgess, Theresa Davies,  
Flavia Stampa Gruss, Kay Hulbert, Pam Barbour

